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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/854,667

05/15/2001

Hideyuki Koguchi

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7590

11/02/2004

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EXAMINER

GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,667

Applicant(s)

KOGUCHI, HIDEYUKI

Examiner

Gabriel I Garcia

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 9, 13, 14, 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: It appears that phrase "a ink" should be changed to "an ink". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8,10-12,15,16,19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brunner (4,852,485).

With regard to claim 1, Brunner teaches a method for printing an image in accordance with digital image information representing the image (see figs. 1 and 2), the method comprising the steps of: (a) mounting a printing plate on a plate drum (see

fig. 1 and col. 8, lines 45-51, the cylinder represents the drum); (b) supplying ink at a substantially constant rate to the printing plate (e.g. col. 8, lines 58-67); generating surface area modulation data based on at least one of dot surface areas from the digital image information (e.g. col. 11, lines 3-20), and an ink film thickness on the printing plate due to the substantially constant rate of ink (e.g. col. 13, lines 27-68); (d) producing revised image data based on the surface area modulation data corresponding to at least one of ink supply rate for adjusting ink film thickness and dot surface areas (e.g. col. 14, lines 10-31 and col. 25, lines 15-55); and (e) printing an image according to the revised image data by at least one of adjusting ink supply rate and exposing an image on the printing plate (e.g. col. 16, lines 37-54).

With regard to claim 2, Brunner further teaches the step of detecting at least one of ink film thicknesses and respective dot surface areas (e.g. col. 11, lines 3-20 and col. 16, lines 37-54).

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Brunner further teaches the step of adjusting a supply rate of ink within a range of one image and wherein each of the steps is carried out independently and synchronously for a plurality of types of inks. (e.g. col. 8, lines 58-67).

With regard to claims 5-7, the limitations of claims 5-7 are covered by the limitations of claims 3 and 4 above.

With regard to claim 8, the limitations of claim 8 are covered by the limitations of claim 1 above; Brunner further teaches the exposure apparatus (see figs. 1-4), and the information processing device (65).

With regard to claim 10, Brunner further teaches another plate drum, wherein the plate drums correspond to the different types of ink from one another (e.g. fig. 2 and col. 8, lines 58-67).

With regard to claim 11, Brunner further teaches the constant amount of ink supplying device includes rollers and an ink key, and the ink key consists essentially of a single structure along an axial direction of the roller and having an opening for allowing ink flow out at a substantially constant rate (see figs. 1 and 2, and col. 13, lines 27-68).

With regard to claim 12, Brunner further teaches a viscosity adjusting section which, before the ink is supplied to the plate drum, adjust viscosity of the ink (see fig 6).

With regard to claims 15-16, the limitations of claims 15-16 are covered by the limitations of claims 10-11 above.

With regard to claims 19-20, the limitations of claims 19-20 are covered by the limitations of claims 1,7 and 8 above.

Conclusion

5. Claims 9,13,14,17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest (in combination with the features of the independent claim 8) a printing system comprising the means as described by claim 9.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. .

Ohsawa et al. (2002/0163560A1) teaches a digital printing plate-making method and apparatus.

Nagasaka et al. (2002/0146635A1) teaches a method for making positive photosensitive lithographic printing plate.

Okuda et al. (5,476,043) teaches a method for post processing a printed image in a printing device.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier

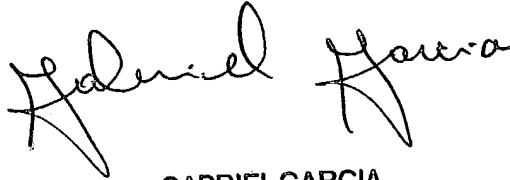
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communications from the examiner should be directed to **Gabriel I. Garcia** whose telephone number is (703) 305-8751. The Examiner can be reached from Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Gabriel I. Garcia
Primary Examiner
October 30, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Garcia', with a stylized, cursive script.

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER